

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (previously presented): An apparatus for gravimetrically calibrating a multi-channel pipette, comprising:

a balance with a load receiver configured to support one of a plurality of receptacles;
a holder device configured to hold the plurality of receptacles, said receptacles being seated in the holder device at defined equal intervals from each other and arranged so that the receptacles can be filled with a test liquid from pipette tips of the multi-channel pipette; and
a transport device for transporting the holder device to the load receiver, wherein the transport device has means for placing on and subsequently removing from the load receiver one after another of said receptacles.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least one of the transport device and the holder device has means for precisely positioning the receptacles on the load receiver.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the transport device is encased in a housing, the balance is installed in the housing, and the load receiver is arranged on a surface of the balance and passes through an opening of the housing into the holder device, when the holder device is in a working position on the transport device.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the load receiver has two wings with V-shaped depressions formed at ends of the wings, from which said one of the plurality of receptacles can be suspended.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the defined equal intervals correspond to a tip interval at which the pipette tips of the multi-channel pipette are spaced from each other.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of receptacles in the holder device has at least as many receptacles as the multi-channel pipette has pipette tips.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the receptacles have a geometrically shaped cross-section selected from the group consisting of one a circle, oval and rectangle.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the holder device comprises:

a holder rack with indentations in which the receptacles are seated by means of rigid suspension members that are attached to upper ends of the receptacles.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the rigid suspension members comprise:

sockets that partially surround a circumference of each receptacle, and rod members with an inner cone and an outer cone.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 9, wherein at least one of the rod members has a double cone which includes two cones pointing in opposite directions, located between the inner cone and the outer cone, and forming a ring groove at a transition from the double cone to the outer cone, said ring groove serving to positively seat one of the rigid suspension members in one of the indentations of the holder rack.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the holder device is separable from the transport device.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the holder device has a cover as a barrier against contamination and evaporation.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the holder device has at least one tub near openings of the receptacles, wherein the tub can be filled with the test liquid to create a saturated atmosphere in the holder device to reduce evaporation of the test liquid from the receptacles.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the holder device has means whereby an underside of the holder device is sealed when the holder device is set on a flat surface.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the transport device is operable to move the holder device horizontally back and forth while at the same time raising and lowering the holder device.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the transport device is configured to move the holder device back and forth with simultaneous raising and lowering with a single drive source.

Claim 17 (original): The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the single drive source is an electric motor.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the transport device has a transport carriage and a transport channel in which the transport carriage moves, and wherein the transport carriage has a seat for the holder device.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the transport device comprises:

at least one transport rack guiding movements of the holder device.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the transport device comprises:

a position sensor operable to determine an actual position of one of the holder device and a transport carriage of the transport device in relation to the transport device.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 16, comprising:

a drive mechanism, a housing, a drive wheel with at least two bolts, and a drive rack with arcuate cutouts, wherein the drive mechanism and the drive wheel are attached to the housing, the drive rack is attached to one of a transport carriage of the transport device and the holder device, and the bolts are configured to engage the arcuate cutouts of the drive rack.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the drive rack, the transport rack of the transport device, and a holder rack of the holder device are shaped with a common periodic pitch.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the holder device is guided by the transport device along a linear travel path.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the holder device is guided by the transport device along a circular travel path.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each receptacle has a bottom surface marked with a receptacle code, and the transport device has a sensor

head, and wherein signal-conducting means are provided for transmitting a code signal from the receptacle code to the sensor head.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the holder device is marked with a holder device code and the transport device comprises:

a sensor device that is operable to read the holder device code and is arranged at an even level with the holder device code.

Claims 27-48 (canceled)